

March
2004

By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the many accomplishments of our Nation's women.

Women are leaders in American business, government, law, science, medicine, the arts, education, and many other fields. As mothers, sisters, and daughters, they bring compassion and integrity to our communities and help to teach our children the values that make our country great.

Women today are following in the footsteps of pioneers such as Sarah Pierce, Emma Willard, Catherine Beecher, and Mary Lyon, who helped open the doors to higher education for women in our country. Their vision and determination changed America forever. Women today also join a long tradition of defending our Nation. During the Revolutionary War, Margaret Cochran Corbin fought as a gunner and was severely wounded at the battle of Fort Mifflin. Today, more than 200,000 women are serving in our Nation's Armed Forces and working to defend America and advance peace and freedom. We are grateful for their sacrifice and for the military families that support them.

This month, we celebrate the many ways women strengthen and enrich America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2004 as Women's History Month. I

Celebrate Women's History Throughout the Year.

March is National Women's History Month. "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility" is the theme for 2004. This theme celebrates the hope and sense of possibility that comes to our lives from the inspirational work of women. As recently as the 1970's, women's history was virtually an unknown topic. "Women's History Week" celebration was initiated in 1978. International Women's Day, was selected as the focal point to ensure that the events and celebration would include a multicultural perspective, recognize the connection between and among women of different cultures, and the role of women in the paid labor force.

NATIONAL HONOREES

This year's national honorees represent the vision of this year's theme in many ways. Their stories affirm the American spirit and embody the truest meaning of hope and possibility. Their lives and work provide guideposts of hope for our future and for our children and remind us all of what the human spirit can achieve if our eyes are fixed on our greatest potential.

- *Sarah Buel*
- *Edna Cambbell*
- *Marian Wright Edelman*

Kingston

- *Dr. Susan B. Lowe*
- *Vilma Martinez*

Sarah Buel

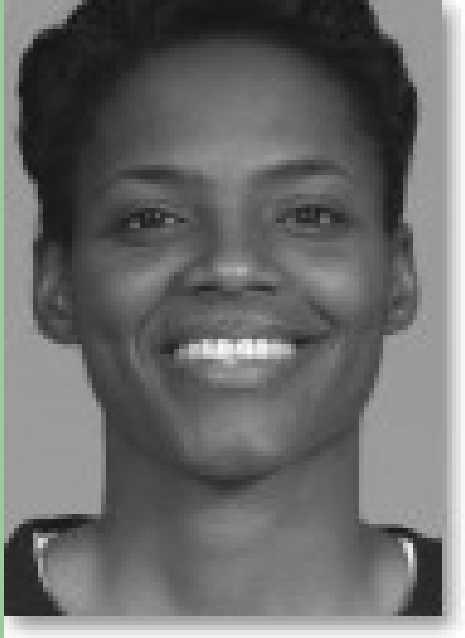


**Domestic Violence Activist and Attorney,
Educator**

Escaping domestic violence in her own life, Sarah Buel became an impassioned advocate for the legal rights of battered women and abused children. Believing that if she became an attorney she could best defend and advocate for battered women and their children, she graduated from Harvard Law School and now runs a legal clinic for battered women. She is also co-founder and co-director of the National

Violence (b1999)

Edna Campbell



Professional Athlete, Spokesperson for Breast Cancer Awareness (B. 1968) A professional basketball player with the WNBA Sacramento Monarchs and a breast cancer survivor, Edna Campbell travels the country as a spokesperson for breast cancer awareness, encouraging women to do regular breast exams and inspiring those with cancer to have hope and courage in ~~challenging the disease~~ ~~fighting the disease~~ and to raise money for breast cancer research.



Educator, Writer, Historian (b.1934)
As a leader and scholar, Jill Ker Conway's fearless study of her own life, public role, and intellectual development have given voice and form to the success of woman's education. The first female president of Smith College, Conway's unrelenting belief in a set of high standards and basic values that have the potential to revitalize people and possibilities for generations of women.

Marian Wright Edelman



Children Rights Advocate and Civil Rights Activist

From her earliest years Marian Wright Edelman was encouraged to give hope and aid to others. As a lawyer, civil rights activist, and founder of the Children's Defense Fund, she has provided a strong authoritative voice for those who have been

For almost 40 years she has advocated for quality health care, immunizations, nutritious food, and educational opportunities, providing hope and possibility to countless numbers.

(b.1943)

Maxine Hong Kingston



(b. 1940)

Writer, Educator, Peace Activist

Acclaimed author and poet Maxine Hong Kingston calls on the rich cultural images and traditions of her Chinese ancestry in her melodious and poetic story telling. Kingston often combines autobiography and fiction and uses dreams and memory, myth and desire to investigate life's possibilities and discover the fullness of one's power. She uses the process of storytelling to both

Dr. Susan B. Love



Women's Health and Breast Cancer Research Expert

A founder of the breast cancer advocacy movement, Dr. Susan Love co-founded the National Breast Cancer Coalition which includes more than 200 organizations and thousands of individuals devoted to gathering input from breast cancer advocates as well as obtaining federal funding for research. As a surgeon and

physicians to listen more closely to their patients.

(b.1948)

Vilma Martinez



Civil Rights Attorney, Community Activist
Knowing the importance of securing and protecting the rights of all people, Vilma Martinez served nine years as President and General Counsel of the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund (MALDF). Her work in education, community development, and employment litigation demonstrates that hope can create unimagined possibilities (b. 1946)

Leslie Marmon Silko



Writer, Poet, Educator Acclaimed storyteller and award-winning author, Leslie Marmon Silko credits her Laguna Pueblo heritage with everything that makes her a writer and a human being. Silko's love for storytelling began as a child when she would listen to the stories of her great-grandmother. For Silko storytelling is more than oral history. It is a ceremony that links the

themselves creating hope, purpose, and survival. (b.1948)



The End



***Prepared by Julie Riley,
CNRSE HRO JAX***